(b) Government closely monitors all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile capabilities. Government also remain fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Pak Foreign Minister's Statement

4914. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani Foreign Minister, in London, while giving an interveiw with Telegraph, has told that their Government will take action against militants who cross border to fight Indian Security Forces in Kashmir;

(b) whether it is also a fact that its Interior Minister, on a visit to Washington, told that the Military regime cannot ban the two militant groups — Lashkar-e-Toiba and Karkat-ul-Mujahideen who are active in Jammu & Kashmir;

(c) if so, what is the correct stand taken by Pakistan; and

(d) the steps taken to deal with situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have seen a news item in the London newspaper, The Daily Telegraph of 6th April 2000, in which Pakistan's Foreign Minister reportedly said that Pakistan will take action against Islamic militants who cross its border to fight Indian Security Forces in Kashmir, However the Interior Minister of Pakistan, while on a visit to Washington, is reported to have refused to give any commitment to ban internationally recognized terrorist organisations operating from Pakistani territory and Pakistan Occupied-Kashmir.

Leaders of Pakistan's military regime often resort to propagandist statement to deflect the increasing concern being expressed by the international community about Pakistan's continued role in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. These statements are without substance as Pakistan continues with its state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India

(d) Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country. While Government will continue to scrupulously maintain its policy of restraint, it will effectively respond, as it has demonstrated in the past, to any threat to our security and territorial integrity.

Phone Tapping of South African Cricket Captain

4915. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of South Africa, lodging a protest for phone tapping, have asked Government for access to the tape recording alleged to contain conversation of the Captain of the South African Cricket Team with an Indian bookie for match fixing during the team's recent visit to the country on the basis of which an FIR has been filed by the Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with its likely repercussions on the bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(c) the steps taken by government to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No Sir. The South African government has not lodged any protest with regard to phone tapping. The South African High Commissioner in New Delhi has, however, requested for access to the tapes containing the recorded conversation between the South African Cricket Captain and an Indian bookie for match fixation.

(b) and (c) The request of the South African side for access to those tapes has been conveyed to the Delhi Police. A decision will be taken in conformity with the provisions and procedures of law. The South African authorities have promised to extend all necessary help to the Government of India to probe this matter. Both the sides have reiterated that this incident will not in any way affect India-South Africa bilateral relations which are close and cordial and part of a strategic partnership.

Terrorist Camps in Bhutan

4916. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding the hobnobbing of Bhutan King with ULFA published in Hindustan Times on 25th April, 2000;